



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

In reply quote No.

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CEREAL STATISTICS, 1958/59

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Final results of the South Australian cereal and hay harvest show that yields generally were very close to the January estimates. The combined yield of wheat, barley and oats was 81,688,879 bushels (estimated in January at 79,900,000), an increase of 7,936,160 bushels or 10.8% over the previous record yield of 73,752,719 bushels in 1956/57. For the third successive years the yield of barley exceeded that of wheat.

Areas and Yields of Crops - 1958/59.

	Area (a)	Yield (b)	Yield per Acre
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat for Grain	1,407,413	32,032,232	22.76
Barley for Grain	1,332,473	37,664,492	28.27
Oats for Grain	481,076	11,992,155	24.93
Rye for Grain	57,152	446,244	7.81
Field Peas for Grain	33,540	517,812	15.44
		Tons	Tons
Hay (all kinds)	419,566	671,527	1.60

(a) Including crops which failed.

(b) Excluding weight of bags

SEASONAL CONDITIONS - 1958/59: The average rainfall over agricultural areas for the crop growing period, April-November 1958, was 13.99 inches compared with 8.67 inches in 1957 and the mean of 12.82 inches for the 53 years to 1957.

1959/60: The Department of Agriculture advises that unless substantial rains fall within the next few weeks, crops will be poor in most areas in the forthcoming season. Because of the lack of rains, the acreage sown to cereals is expected to be considerably lower than was intended when these figures were collected last March. Poor germination of crops already sown may cause large areas to fail.

AREAS SOWN FOR ALL PURPOSES. The following table shows acreages sown for all purposes (grain, hay and green fodder) for the last four seasons, 1955/56 to 1958/59 and estimates of the current season 1959/60, representing areas which farmers advised that they intended sowing during 1959. The maximum area sown to wheat was 4,507,213 acres in 1930/31, when only 267,369 acres were under barley. Since then the acreage of barley has increased steadily to 1,367,059 acres in 1958/59 while the area under wheat has fallen to 1,459,978 acres. The area of barley has risen during this period from 5.9% to 93.6% of the area under wheat.

Areas Sown for all Purposes (a)

	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60(a)
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Wheat	1,678,298	1,480,676	1,411,406	1,459,978	1,830,621
Barley	1,067,661	1,248,648	1,271,434	1,367,059	1,399,664
Oats	841,936	843,481	874,908	845,052	979,375
Rye	45,350	52,777	45,827	65,371	(b)
Field Peas	38,011	34,640	44,304	36,880	42,962

(a) For 1959/60, acreage is that intended to be sown when details were collected in the autumn (but note particularly comment on "Seasonal conditions" above).

(b) Not available.

CEREALS USED ON FARMS.

In recent years there has been a steady fall in use of wheat, and a sharp rise in the use of barley and oats for seed and feed. However in 1958/59 (following a season of very low production of oats), slight decreases in usage of oats and increases in usage of wheat were recorded.

The 335,961 tons of hay used for feed in 1958/59 was the highest since the war, but is still well below the immediate pre-war level, when over 500,000 tons per annum were used.

Cereals used on Farms

		1957/58		1958/59	
		Seed	Feed	Seed	Feed
Wheat	Bushels	1,631,682	846,381	1,739,687	862,713
Barley	"	1,590,089	1,544,603	1,678,723	1,715,005
Oats	"	1,037,041	2,948,944	1,062,147	2,793,317
Hay	Tons	-	276,846	-	335,961

Farmers reported that 1,843,322 bushels of wheat were being retained on farms for 1959 seeding, and that 671,457 bushels were being kept for feed purposes.

WHEAT. The 32,032,232 bushels of wheat harvested in 1958/59 averaged 22.76 bushels per acre which is higher than the previous record average of 21.97 bushels in 1952/53. Record wheat production in this State was 48,093,102 bushels in 1931/32 but the yield per acre in that year was only 11.81 bushels.

Area & Production of Wheat

		1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
Total Area	Acres	1,766,539	1,678,298	1,480,676	1,411,406	1,459,859
Grain Area	Acres	1,689,103	1,609,029	1,438,289	1,331,302	1,407,413
Yield	Bush.	31,462,737	28,891,524	31,431,547	14,913,988	32,032,232
Yield/acre	Bush.	18.63	17.96	21.85	11.20	22.76

Of the 1,407,413 acres sown to wheat for grain last season, 647,063 acres were sown on fallowed land and produced 16,172,148 bushels averaging 24.99 bushels per acre. The remaining 760,350 acres not on fallow yielded 15,860,084 bushels, an average of 20.86 bushels per acre.

The following table shows varieties of wheat sown for all purposes for the three years 1956/57 to 1958/59.

Varieties of Wheat

	Area			Proportion to Total Area		
	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
	Acres	Acres	Acres	%	%	%
Bencubbin (a)	123,231	77,873	65,172	8.32	5.52	4.46
Bungulla	13,546	9,134	5,188	0.92	0.65	0.35
Claymore	3,347	24,297	69,401	0.23	1.72	4.75
Dirk (a)	201,409	229,755	243,239	13.60	16.28	16.66
Dundee (a)	15,470	15,359	14,094	1.04	1.09	0.96
Gabo	377,442	322,057	337,344	25.49	22.82	23.11
Glucub	8,010	3,365	2,297	0.54	0.24	0.16
Gluyas	11,858	8,177	2,906	0.80	0.58	0.20
Insignia (a)	272,686	254,989	260,522	18.42	18.07	17.84
Javelin (a)	58,975	54,535	48,154	3.98	3.86	3.30
Kendee	16,562	12,163	6,891	1.12	0.86	0.47
Marathon	10,284	8,750	4,891	0.69	0.62	0.34
Pinnacle	22,696	23,152	24,078	1.53	1.64	1.65
Quadrat	25,611	17,757	14,540	1.73	1.26	1.00
Rapier (a)	21,640	21,484	19,837	1.46	1.52	1.36
Reldep	16,465	12,040	8,002	1.11	0.85	0.55
Sabre	89,833	137,297	157,137	6.07	9.73	10.76
Scimitar (a)	75,887	69,434	61,687	5.13	4.92	4.23
Sword	10,490	10,458	6,533	0.71	0.74	0.45
Waratah	11,363	6,827	3,881	0.77	0.48	0.27
Warigo	10,708	6,745	4,406	0.72	0.48	0.30
Wongoondy	2,374	9,373	21,551	0.16	0.66	1.48
Yande	5,436	13,808	13,606	0.37	0.98	0.93
Other (incl. unspec.)	75,353	62,577	64,502	5.09	4.43	4.42
Total Wheat	1,480,676	1,411,406	1,459,859	100.00	100.00	100.00

(a) Includes back cross.

BARLEY. The yield of 37,664,492 bushels in 1958/59 is a new record, surpassing the previous highest yield of 34,002,876 bushels in 1956/57 by 10.8%. The total area under barley and the acreage sown for grain are new records also, and the average yield per acre is the highest for more than 100 years.

Area & Production of Barley

		1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
Total Area	Acres	1,057,818	1,067,661	1,248,648	1,271,434	1,367,059
Grain Area	Acres	1,019,673	1,041,806	1,221,737	1,211,762	1,332,473
Yield	Bush.	18,376,283	24,597,979	34,002,876	17,551,669	37,664,492
Yield/acre	Bush.	18.02	23.61	27.83	14.48	28.27

Of the barley sown for grain in 1958/59, 1,265,172 acres of 2-row yielded 35,974,125 bushels and 1,690,367 bushels of 6-row were reaped from 67,301 acres.

The varieties of barley sown for all purposes for the last three seasons are listed in the table below.

Varieties of Barley

	Area			Proportion to Total Area		
	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
	Acres	Acres	Acres	%	%	%
2 Row - Maltworthy	235,176	233,837	239,163	18.84	18.39	17.49
Prior	853,232	874,179	959,624	68.33	68.76	70.19
Research	14,114	23,765	18,949	1.13	1.87	1.39
Other 2 Row	60,989	63,587	67,618	4.88	5.00	4.95
6 Row - All kinds	85,137	76,066	81,705	6.82	5.98	5.98
Total Barley	1,248,648	1,271,434	1,367,059	100.00	100.00	100.00

OATS. The total yield of oats, 11,992,155 bushels, during 1958/59 is a new record being 44.2% greater than the 1956/57 record of 8,318,296 bushels, and the average yield per acre in 1958/59 is the highest for more than 100 years. The area sown for grain is also a new record, the previous highest being 472,545 acres yielding 1,829,404 bushels in 1940/41.

Area & Production of Oats

		1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
Total Area	Acres	767,581	841,936	843,481	874,908	845,052
Grain Area	Acres	339,640	425,026	427,192	427,366	481,076
Yield	Bush.	4,508,117	7,280,340	8,314,296	3,422,525	11,992,155
Yield/Acre	Bush.	13.27	17.13	19.47	8.01	24.93

The varieties of oats sown for all purposes during each of the last three seasons, 1956/57 to 1958/59, are set out below.

Varieties of Oats

	Area			Proportion to Total Area		
	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
	Acres	Acres	Acres	%	%	%
Algerian	78,762	85,911	80,914	9.34	9.82	9.58
Ballidu	52,461	63,021	48,851	6.22	7.20	5.78
Belar	24,615	22,045	13,977	2.92	2.52	1.65
Dale	18,106	19,283	14,250	2.15	2.20	1.69
Fulghum	121,555	102,081	93,893	14.41	11.67	11.11
Guyra	15,056	11,223	6,014	1.78	1.28	0.71
Kherson (inc. Early)	273,089	294,576	281,302	32.38	33.67	33.29
Mulga	32,740	27,027	16,239	3.88	3.09	1.92
New Zealand Cape	77,659	75,303	88,149	9.21	8.61	10.43
Orient	90,790	126,201	139,287	10.76	14.42	16.48
Other (incl. unspec.)	58,648	48,237	62,176	6.95	5.52	7.36
Total Oats	843,481	874,908	845,052	100.00	100.00	100.00

RYE. During 1958/59 there were 65,371 acres under rye of which 57,152 acres were for grain yielding 446,244 bushels. This compares favourably with the low yield of 152,493 bushels from 38,955 acres sown for grain in 1957/58 when the total area under rye was 45,827 acres.

FIELD PEAS. The marked increase in crop yields in 1958/59 was also reflected in the field pea harvest. 517,812 bushels were reaped from 33,540 acres compared with 188,376 bushels from 37,168 acres sown for grain in 1957/58. However, the low yield in 1957/58 was caused by the complete failure of a large proportion of the crop. In 1956/57, 632,795 bushels were harvested from 30,496 acres. Farmers in the autumn indicated that they intended to sow approximately 43,000 acres in 1959/60.

Of the 36,880 acres of field peas sown in 1958/59 for all purposes, 5,954 acres were sown to Collegian, 22,498 acres to Dun, 7,305 acres to White Brunswick and other varieties totalled 1,123 acres.

HAY. The yield of hay (all kinds) in 1958/59 was 671,527 tons from 419,566 acres. This was the highest yield since 748,313 tons of hay were cut in 1941/42. The record area and yield of hay was 1,100,127 tons from 709,831 acres in 1915/16. The average yields of wheaten, oaten and all kinds of hay were the highest for many years.

Area and Production of Hay

	1954/55	1955/56	1,56/57	1957/58	1958/59
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
<u>Area</u>					
Wheaten	68,242	61,524	36,618	71,517	50,283
Oaten	125,772	139,325	107,725	100,545	162,762
Other	62,511	124,824	154,451	118,864	206,521
All Kinds	256,525	325,673	298,794	290,926	419,566
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
<u>Yield</u>					
Wheaten	99,819	91,422	60,914	72,092	85,343
Oaten	146,583	191,767	160,520	89,793	273,279
Other	83,216	177,632	231,836	142,209	312,905
All Kinds	329,618	460,821	453,270	304,094	671,527
<u>Yield per Acre</u>					
Wheaten	1.46	1.49	1.66	1.01	1.70
Oaten	1.17	1.38	1.49	0.89	1.69
Other	1.33	1.42	1.50	1.20	1.52
All Kinds	1.28	1.41	1.52	1.05	1.60

CROPS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS.

The following table shows area, yield and yield per acre for each crop in statistical divisions in South Australia during the year 1958/59. The rainfall for each division is obtained by weighting the recorded rainfall in crop-growing counties within the division by the area under crop in these counties and represents the average rainfall over agricultural areas during the crop growing period April-November, 1958.

Crops in Statistical Divisions								
	Unit	Central	Lower North	Upper North	South Eastern	Western	Murray Mallee	Whole State
GRAIN -								
Wheat								
Area	acres	220,416	367,123	89,850	20,873	501,238	207,913	1,407,413
Yield	bush.	5,490,471	9,765,737	2,135,961	614,820	11,214,867	2,810,376	32,032,232
Ave. Yield	bush.	24.91	26.60	23.77	29.46	22.37	13.52	22.76
Barley								
Area	acres	412,272	268,100	27,614	28,080	282,338	314,069	1,332,473
Yield	bush.	12,928,646	8,684,717	843,042	761,415	7,633,922	6,812,750	37,664,492
Ave. Yield	bush.	31.36	32.39	30.53	27.12	27.04	21.69	28.27
Oats								
Area	acres	77,694	93,880	18,623	42,344	185,578	62,957	481,076
Yield	bush.	2,314,938	2,814,239	553,958	1,375,884	3,833,841	1,099,295	11,992,155
Ave. Yield	bush.	29.80	29.98	29.75	32.49	20.66	17.46	24.93
Rye								
Area	acres	1,008	666	54	386	1,474	53,564	57,152
Yield	bush.	12,468	10,071	714	4,191	12,330	406,470	446,244
Ave. Yield	bush.	12.37	15.12	13.22	10.86	8.36	7.59	7.81
Field Peas								
Area	acres	21,561	10,327	217	655	732	48	33,540
Yield	bush.	353,007	139,660	1,610	13,188	9,720	627	517,812
Ave. Yield	bush.	16.37	13.52	7.42	20.13	13.28	13.06	15.44
HAY (all kinds)								
Area	acres	160,896	86,592	16,247	69,681	41,267	44,893	419,566
Yield	tons	273,870	132,466	24,042	119,386	63,328	58,435	671,527
Ave. Yield	tons	1.70	1.53	1.48	1.71	1.53	1.30	1.60
RAINFALL (a)	ins.	15.55	13.49	15.08	21.40	13.35	11.88	13.99

(a) Preliminary figures.

Bureau of Census & Statistics,
ADELAIDE.

11th September, 1959.

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